

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 29 - 56 are pending in the application. Currently, claims 29 - 39 stand rejected and claims 40 - 56 stand withdrawn from consideration.

By the present amendment, claim 29 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 30; claims 35 has been placed into independent form; claim 38 has been amended; and claims 40 - 56 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In the office action mailed April 30, 2008, the Examiner raised certain objections to the drawings. Attached hereto is a replacement sheet of drawings which contains corrections to Figures 1 - 3. The Examiner is hereby requested to approve the entry of the replacement sheet of drawings.

With respect to the objection to claim 38, appropriate correction has been made.

Further in the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 29 - 39 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Amendments have been made to claim 29 so that its metes and bounds are clear. For example, the claim has been placed into a format more familiar to U.S. practice. Further, the claim is now clear that the connecting device for joining the first workpiece to the second workpiece comprises a clamping screw and a sleeve. As for the first workpiece being recited in the body of the claim after the word comprising the recitation is needed to place the clamping screw and the sleeve in the overall environment in which they are used. In Applicant's opinion, claim 29 as

amended herein particularly points out and distinctly claims what Applicant considers to be Applicant's invention. The second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 requires nothing more. One of ordinary skill in the art reading the claim in light of the specification would understand the metes and bounds of claim 29. In other words, it would not be practical to have a claim wherein the location of the clamping screw and sleeve were omitted. Their location and interaction with the workpieces is part of the invention. With regard to the recitation of "is provided with a screw head," the claim language has been clarified to say what element contains the screw head. With respect to the recitation "a profile side face", this recitation has been deleted from the claims.

With respect to the rejection of claims 29 and 31 - 34, 36 and 37 on obviousness grounds, this rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to claims 29 and 35.

The instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, he is hereby invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Entry of the instant amendment is proper since it does not raise any issue which requires further consideration and/or search by the Examiner since the claims each contain subject matter which the Examiner has deemed to be allowable. Still further, the instant Amendment does not raise any issue of new matter.

A request for a three month extension of time and a notice of appeal are enclosed herewith.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the extension of time and notice of appeal fees in the amount of \$825.00 to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to said Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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